

Update

A Monthly | Newsletter of the Common Ground Alliance

November 2015

CGATM
Common Ground Alliance



CGA Looks Forward

CGA Looks Forward to 2016

Thanks to the dedication to shared responsibility demonstrated by our members, 2015 was another banner year for CGA and damage prevention – but our work is far from done. CGA is capitalizing on the momentum generated in 2015 as we plan for next year's efforts. Read on for a preview of what 2016 holds!

Our Board of Directors

With the new year around the corner, CGA would like to extend a huge thank you to our outgoing board members and a welcome to our new additions.

Please join us in extending gratitude from the entire industry to our outgoing board members for their service and dedication. These individuals have given their time, talent and resources, and for that we are very grateful:

Jim Barron, *Maryland Underground Facilities Damage Prevention Authority (At-Large)*

Tim Felt, *Colonial Pipeline (At-Large)*

Robert Fronczak, *Association of American Railroads (Railroads)*

John Komidar, *Travelers (Insurance)*

Anthony McCain, *Nicor Gas (Gas Distribution)*

Jim Narva, *Narva & Associates (Emergency)*

Candace Schnoor, *Deere & Company (Equipment Manufacturing and Suppliers)*

Mike Stayton, *USIC (Locator)*

CGA would also like to welcome our new board members for the 2016/2017 term, who have already proven themselves to be incredible assets to the damage prevention community:

Al Cervero, *Association of Equipment Manufacturers (Equipment Manufacturing and Suppliers)*

Annamarie Gibbs, *Lockton Companies, LLC (Insurance)*

E. Thomas "Tommy" Hicks IV, *International Association of Fire Chiefs (Emergency)*

Josh Hinrich, *ELM Locating & Utility Services (Locator)*

Craig Hoeflerlin, *Laclede Gas Company (Gas Distribution)*

Mike Martino, *Association of American Railroads (Railroads)*



2016 Communications Plan

CGA will release its sixth consecutive Communications Plan and Calendar via webinar on Dec. 9 at 2 p.m. EDT to guide stakeholders in their efforts to promote the 811 message and other damage prevention practices. [Click here](#) to register for the webinar today.



2016 Meeting Schedule

Mark your calendars for CGA's 2016 committee meetings. If you have not yet joined a committee or are interested in additional committees, [click here](#) to read more about each one and how you can get involved.

Fort Lauderdale, FL

- **Educational Programs and Marketing:**
*Jan. 26 (8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.)
and Jan. 27 (8:30-11 a.m.)*

Las Vegas, NV

- **OCSI:** *March 7, (8:30 a.m.-12 p.m.)*
- **Technology:** *March 7 (1-5 p.m.)*
- **Stakeholder Advocacy:** *March 7 (1-5 p.m.)*
- **Regional Partners:** *March 7 (1-5 p.m.)*
- **Data Reporting and Evaluation:**
March 8 (8 a.m.-12 p.m.)
- **Best Practices:** *March 8 (8 a.m.-12 p.m.)*
- **Educational Programs and Marketing:**
March 8 (8 a.m.-12 p.m.)
- **Board of Directors:**
March 8 (2-5 p.m.) and March 9 (10-11 a.m.)

Arlington, VA

- **Data Reporting and Evaluation:**
June 14 (8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.)
- **Educational Programs and Marketing:**
*June 14 (8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.)
and June 15 (8:30-11 a.m.)*
- **Technology:** *June 15 (8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.)*

Phoenix/Mesa, AZ

- **Educational Programs and Marketing:**
Sept. 27 and Sept. 28 (8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.)

Pittsburgh, PA

- **OCSI:** *July 19 (8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.)*
- **Best Practices:** *July 20 (8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.)*
- **Stakeholder Advocacy:**
July 21 (8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.)
- **Board of Directors:** *July 22 (7 a.m.-12 p.m.)*

Indianapolis, IN

- **OCSI:** *Nov. 7 (1-5 p.m.)*
- **Best Practices:** *Nov. 8 (8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.)*
- **Educational Programs and Marketing:**
*Nov. 8 (8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.)
and Nov. 9 (8:30-11 a.m.)*
- **Data Reporting and Evaluation:**
Nov. 8 (8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.)
- **Stakeholder Advocacy:**
Nov. 9 (8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.)
- **Technology:** *Nov. 9 (8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.)*
- **Board of Directors:** *Nov. 10 (8 a.m.-4 p.m.)*



CGA Awards Nominations

In 2005, the CGA established an awards program to celebrate the successes of our members as well as those in the larger damage prevention community. Since that time, the CGA has recognized many individuals who have demonstrated great dedication to damage prevention.

CGA presents three awards annually including the **Ron Olitsky Award, Jim Barron Award and Hall of Fame designation**. The awards are presented each year during our Annual Meeting.

Nominations are being accepted now through Jan.31. **Click here** to nominate outstanding damage prevention advocates today!

Please review the criteria for each award and ensure you have addressed them in your submission. An award selection subcommittee of the CGA working committees and board members will evaluate and discuss the nominations prior to naming the honorees.

If People Don't Know Us, They Won't Trust Us: Why Education Matters

By Geraldine Anderson, CEPA

CEPA's 2015 Pipeline Industry Performance Report

A few decades ago, Canada's pipeline industry quietly toiled away, transporting energy products across the country. Aside from regulators and governments, few others paid much attention to how we went about our business. Today, that is no longer the reality. At every turn, our industry is questioned and scrutinized and we have to respond to this shift with openness and accountability.

That's exactly what the Canadian Energy Pipeline Association's (CEPA) new industry performance report, *Committed to Safety. Committed to Canadians* is all about: honest and open communication. The report shares our industry's recent performance and the actions we are all taking to improve safety, lessen environmental impacts and achieve operational excellence.

For instance, external damage caused by unsafe digging accounts for about 5.8 percent of all pipeline incidents, which are entirely preventable. This is why CEPA is compiling a database of industry-wide data on near-misses

and unauthorized activity on pipeline rights-of-way in order to analyze trends and identify focus areas that can be addressed. CEPA also supports efforts by CGA to simplify both access to one call centers and the damage prevention process.

The performance report is a first for our industry and shows an unprecedented level of transparency that we hope will go a long way toward building trust and rebuilding our industry's reputation.

"Transparency is key to enhancing the industry's reputation," says Drew Black, the director of environmental policy for the Canadian Federation of Agriculture. "It's also a critical component in building public trust and understanding, which is necessary to advance the social license of any industry."

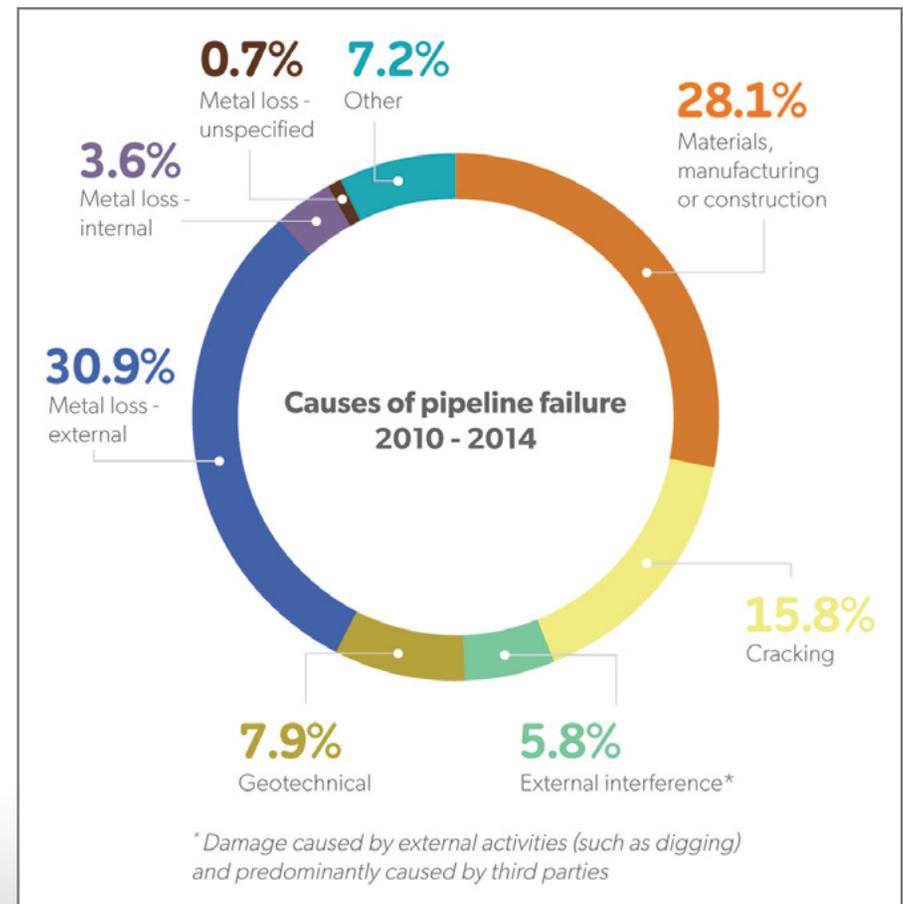
Black is also a member of CEPA's External Advisory Panel (EAP), a group that informs CEPA Integrity First®, an industry-led initiative committed to continuous improvement of safety and environmental performance as well as CEPA's Board of Directors.

New report tells Canadians: We hear you and we're responding

CEPA and our members are committed to being more open and accountable. We want Canadians to be familiar with our operations because that's the best way to build trust.

"Canadians deserve to know what the pipeline industry is doing and how we are doing it. Our obligation to Canadians goes beyond safe

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operations – we have a responsibility to be open and transparent in our communications; to address their concerns and answer their tough questions,” says Terrance Kutryk, President and CEO of Alliance Pipelines, and CEPA’s current board chair.

“This report turns the spotlight on our industry’s recent performance and how our members are working together to provide the safety and reliability Canadians expect and deserve,” says Brenda Kenny, CEPA’s CEO and president.

Performance at-a-glance

Here are some key statistics on our industry’s recent safety performance.

- *99.999 percent safe delivery record of crude oil and natural gas*
- *122 liquids and natural gas spills and releases, four categorized as ‘significant’*
- *\$2.9 billion invested in maintaining and monitoring member pipeline systems*
- *45,306 kilometres of pipeline inspected in 2014 using sophisticated in-line inspection devices*
- *335 emergency response exercises held 25 percent decrease in rate of injuries to our employees over past five years*

The report was released November 3. To read the full report please visit cepa.com.

Stakeholder Advocacy: Resource Documents Guide Productive Law Change Discussions

CGA’s newest committee, Stakeholder Advocacy, has compiled a rich library of resources that damage prevention stakeholders can use as they work to strengthen damage prevention laws in their areas. Please **click here** to get the full Stakeholder Advocacy toolkit.

Among the items available in the toolkit are a suite of “Advocacy Resource Documents” that can help guide productive discussions about how to strengthen state damage prevention laws as stakeholders attempt to reach consensus on proposed legislation, and as advocates reach out to legislators to bring them into the fold on these critical safety issues.

The most downloaded item in the Stakeholder Advocacy toolkit is a **guide that cross references CGA’s Best Practices with PHMSA’s Nine Elements** of an Effective State Damage Prevention Program, which many members have found useful as they begin the process of drafting new legislation.

Other tools in the “Advocacy Resource Documents” portion of the toolkit include advocacy abstracts, an overview of PHMSA resources, a slide deck reviewing the history and mission of CGA and more.

For more information about the Stakeholder Advocacy committee, **please visit the CGA website**.



News Briefs

Columbia Pipeline

Participates in Ag Safety Day

Columbia Pipeline Group (CPG) recently gave a safe digging presentation as part of West Virginia University (WVU) Extension Service's 2015 Progressive Agriculture Safety Day at Mercer Elementary School in Princeton, W.Va. WVU extended a thank-you to CPG, noting that the company was "helping make a difference in children's lives."

The History of Georgia 811

Georgia 811 produced a brief video detailing its unique history. The organization began as a five-person operation in a single room, and has grown into a robust organization with 801 statewide members. The video is available for viewing on YouTube [here](#).

Hunting in the Sticks Premiere Party

CGA and a range of damage prevention stakeholders attended the premiere of the Hunting in the Sticks TV show, a project of one of our industry's great partners, Mark Stowe. Mark owns a landscape contracting company in Kentucky and has long been an

advocate of 811 and damage prevention through his work with Kentucky 811 and creation of the 811 Bass Boat. The bass boat and 811 Bike, two of our community's ambassadors, were on site for the premiere. Be sure to check out the new season of Hunting in the Sticks on the Pursuit channel!



Kansas 811 Attends Ag Safety Days

On Oct. 14, Kansas 811's Russ Baxter and Max Pendergrass partnered with Raul Montoya from Southern Star Central Gas Pipeline at Progressive Agriculture Safety Days. The event was held at the Haskell County Fair Association Fairgrounds in Sublette, Kan. The three men shared the 811 message with a group of 120 fourth graders and their teachers



Louisiana One Call's Diggers Night Out

Louisiana One Call had an excellent turnout of over 150 excavators at one of its Digger's Night Out events! The event featured damage prevention training, information from the exhibitors and sponsors, tons of door prizes and a delicious meal served by Atmos Energy.

Lone Star 811 at Safety Day

The Lone Star 811 team had a blast at this year's Southeast Texas Damage Prevention Council's Safety Day! A big thank you to everyone who came out and made this event possible.



Missouri CGA Hosts Safety Summit

Missouri utilities, excavators and municipal crews are teaming up to make the Missouri Common Ground Alliance (CGA) 2015 Damage Prevention and Excavation Safety Summit a success. Top-quality safety training is being provided at no charge during the event, which is taking place Dec. 9-10 at the Ozark Empire Fairgrounds in Springfield, Mo.

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The 2015 Damage Prevention and Excavation Safety Summit is the largest construction safety event in the midwest. Organized by the Missouri CGA, the Summit offers 20 safety courses completely free of charge, including four certification classes.

Live special events will include electrical safety and poletop rescue classes, vacuum excavation demonstrations, a live “trench rescue docudrama” and a vacuum excavation during trench rescue, presented by the experts at RescueVac.

Special guest Paul Teutul, Jr. of the Discovery Channel show “American Chopper” will drop by and deliver a safety message on Dec. 9. More than 60 vendors will also be on-site throughout the event displaying the latest construction services, equipment, trucks and machines.

Registration is open and more than 1,500 are expected to attend. Click [here](#) to reserve your spots today for the Midwest’s largest construction safety event.

Nebraska811 Hosts Locate Workshop

Nebraska811 along with Travis Beran from Subsurface Solutions hosted a locate workshop in Norfolk on Oct. 14. A one call grant from the Pipelines and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) provides funds for locate workshops throughout Nebraska.

North Dakota One Call Attends Safety Conference

North Dakota One Call took part in the Northern Region Association of Safety Professionals (NRASP) Annual Safety Conference on Nov. 9 and 10 and spread the 811 safety message.

NMRCGA Names Locator of the Year

The New Mexico Regional Common Ground Alliance (NMRCGA) named Doug Weber, senior line spotter for New Mexico Gas Company, as Line Locator of the Year during a ceremony on Sept. 17 at NMRCGA’s conference and expo.

Each year, NMRCGA awards one New Mexican line locator with the best record – consisting of no reportable damages, no late locates and a total number of locates



without error – with this prestigious title. Weber has 35 years’ experience at NMGC, and his nearly 7,000 line locates in the last three years have been error-free.

OUNC Makes an Impression via Facebook

Over the last month, Oregon Utility Notification Center (OUNC) ran Facebook contests giving out tickets for the Civil War Football game. Through the three rounds of the contest, OUNC made over 14,000 impressions!

Texas811 Promotes Safe Digging in Nationally Syndicated Column

Texas811’s manager of media and public relations, Scott Finley, recently penned a letter to the nationally syndicated “Helpful Hints from Heloise” column asking Heloise to remind readers about the importance of calling 811 before beginning any digging project – and his letter was published in the Nov. 3 edition of the column! “Helpful Hints from Heloise” appears in several newspapers nationwide.

Click [here](#) to see the article in the Washington Post. It also appeared in publications out of Erie, Pa., Dayton, Ohio, Texarkana, Tex., Rapid City, S.D. and other locations.



Pictured in the center: Doug Weber, NMRCGA Line Locator of the Year.

Sharing U.S. Damage Prevention Best Practices with the Chinese

By Jemie Wang, Data Reporting & Evaluation Committee Co-Chair, BizMetrix, LLC

In November of 2014, I was invited by the Chinese Underground Pipeline Committee of CACP to speak about CGA and the U.S. underground damage prevention industry at the China International Underground Pipeline (CIUP) Conference in Beijing. The conference was attended by more than 1,000 people from all over the world with a heavy concentration from Asia. They were particularly interested in how the 811 systems work in the U.S., as well as CGA's annual DIRT Reports. China currently does not have a one call system nor does it have a damage database like DIRT.

My first session was a two-hour Q&A with about 40 executives from various gas and oil pipeline and distribution companies. The executives were fascinated by U.S. one call systems, the simplicity of the national 811 number, how ticket information flows from stakeholder to stakeholder, how disputes are resolved and DIRT. There was lively discussion about how such a system might work in China and even how to implement it. It's clear that

what we take for granted in the U.S. is yet only a dream for people in many other countries.

The next session was a presentation to the general session about how the U.S. 811 system works, CGA and DIRT. After the presentation, several industry executives and academics approached me seeking a deeper understanding of how the U.S. damage prevention system works and how the stakeholders interact with each other. There's a lot of investment and brainpower in China working toward taking its damage prevention industry to the next level, and searching

for best practices internationally is a key component.

A welcomed detour from the conference was my tour of a college that offered a degree in underground utility locating. I underwent the now-familiar Q&A session with college leaders about the U.S. damage prevention industry. Then they showed me what they have been working on, which is rather impressive. The college buried all of the typical utilities on its grounds and put recreational facilities above them. The basketball courts in the photo (see *next page*) are not painted but are a hard



Presentation at general session

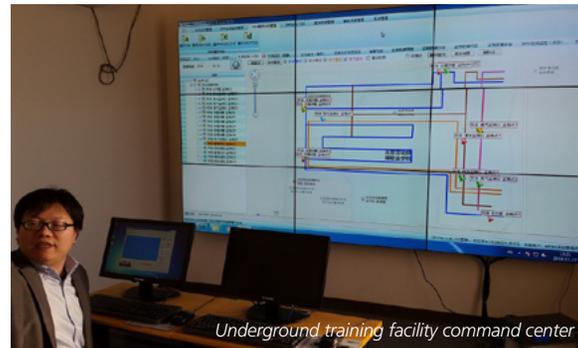
plastic mesh-like covering. The buried facilities are controlled from command center from which they can simulate real world conditions for education and testing purposes.

The Chinese firmly believe in managing by facts and numbers. In fact, they so admired the DIRT Report that they translated the entire 2014 DIRT Report into Chinese shortly after its release in order to learn from it (*special thanks to Sandy Hu of USIC for help with translation*).

Hopefully my trip to China gave the country's underground damage prevention leaders a better understanding of how things work in the U.S. I also learned some things from the trip I'd like to share with my peers in the U.S.:

1. Be open-minded about what stakeholders in other countries may be doing better. Adopt the best ideas and practices, regardless of country of origin.
2. Be willing to invest more in infrastructure and training. The amount of infrastructure spending I saw in China was mind-blowing. They offer a degree in underground utility locating that is not available anywhere in the U.S. that I am aware of.

If you have any questions about my experience with underground damage prevention in China, please feel free to contact me at jemie@bizmetrix.biz.



DIRT Survey Coming in December

The Data Reporting & Evaluation Committee is conducting a top-to-bottom review of the DIRT form to determine if some questions and/or associated answers should be eliminated, added, consolidated or revised. The committee plans to put out a survey in early December to solicit feedback from the DIRT user community. Please watch out for the survey and start thinking about what your organization would like to get out of DIRT. The value we get out of DIRT is only as good as the quality of the data that goes in.

And Nevada's Silver Shovel winner is ...

The Nevada Regional Common Ground Alliance (NRCGA) hosted its Excavator Appreciation Barbeque on Nov. 5, which was attended by more than 70 members of the damage prevention community!

Robert Ward (NV Energy) was the event chairperson and delivered a keynote speech about teamwork. Tom Georgi (Las Vegas Valley Water District) and Councilman John Marz (City of Henderson) also spoke about the importance of damage prevention in keeping our communities safe.

Robert Ward presented the Outstanding Performance Award to Jerrad Martin of JBM Underground.

Ted Pistone, executive director of the National Utility Contractors Association, presented the Silver Shovel Award to Greg Walker of KNL Construction.

In addition to the Silver Shovel and Outstanding Performance Awards, Stephen Sifuentes (representing Senator Dean Heller) and Ken Minster (representing Congressman Joe Heck) honored the winners with certificates of appreciation.

The **NRCGA** is a non-profit group of dues-paying members. [Click here](#) for a list of members.



Ted Pistone with Silver Shovel Award winner Greg Walker.

Robert Ward with Outstanding Performance Award to winner Jerrad Martin.



NRCGA Wins PHMSA Grant

The NRCGA is excited to have been awarded a \$20,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation's Pipelines and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration's (PHMSA) Technical Assistance Grant (TAG) program. The TAG program helps communities and non-profit organizations develop customized pipeline safety and education programs.

"Local governments must have the resources to develop safety programs that fit their communities," said U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx. "These grants encourage public involvement in pipeline safety and allow communities to develop specific solutions to individual pipeline safety challenges."



THE MIRAGE | LAS VEGAS
March 8-10, 2016

Introducing **NEW** critical industry summits

where industry leaders discuss damage prevention best practices.

Summits include short presentations by panel members followed by a round table discussion of **new ideas and hot topics.**

WATER & SEWER INFRASTRUCTURE PROTECTION

Wednesday, March 9, 2016 | 2:30PM-4PM
TheWaterSewerSymposium.com

Moderator:
Samuel T. Ariaratnam
Ph.D., P.E., P.Eng., Professor and Program Chair of Construction Engineering Arizona State University

Summit Panel Members:
Robert Edwards
Water Operation Supervisor
Citizens Energy Group

Joseph Martin
Utility Locate Foreman
Clayton County Water Authority

Additional panelists will be added soon



PIPELINE SAFETY & AWARENESS

Wednesday, March 9, 2016 | 2:30PM-4PM
ThePipelineSymposium.com



Moderator:
Jason Montoya
Pipeline Safety Bureau Chief
New Mexico Public Regulation Commission

Summit Panel Members:
John Erickson
P.E., Vice President - Operations
American Public Gas Association

Jeff Wiese
Associate Administrator for Pipeline Safety
PHMSA

Dan King
VP Engineering and Asset Reliability
TransCanada

Ron McClain
VP Operations and Engineering
Kinder Morgan

Nick Stravropoulos
President, Gas
Pacific Gas & Electric

Additional panelists will be added soon



FIBER OPTIC ASSET PROTECTION

Wednesday, March 9, 2016 | 2:30PM-4PM
TheFiberSymposium.com

Moderator:
Roger Sampson
Executive Director
New York 811

Summit Panel Members:
Andy Heins
Senior Consultant, Strategy and Operations
Finley Engineering Company, Inc.

Additional panelists will be added soon



UNDERGROUND SAFETY SUMMIT: LOCATE QUALITY

Thursday, March 10, 2016 | 11:30AM-12:30PM
TheLocatingSymposium.com



Moderator:
Ron Peterson
Executive Director
NULCA

Summit Panel Members:
Ian Lambert
NULCA Australia and Managing Director
Lampert Locations

Morgan Abele
President of Operations
PULS, Inc.

Dan Halverstadt
Vice President, Quality and Training
USIC

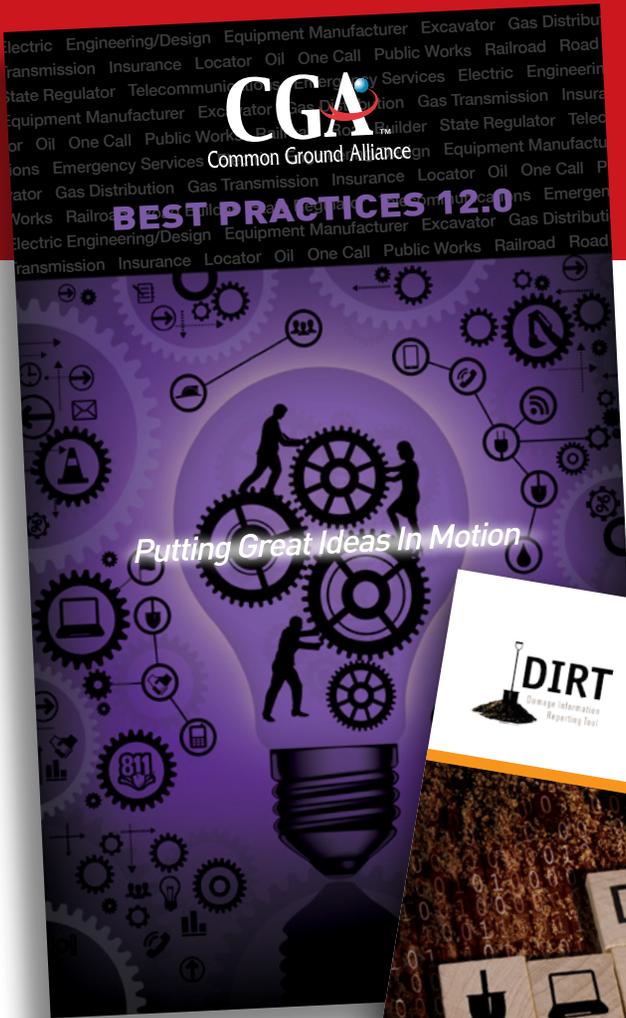
Additional panelists will be added soon



••••• EARLY REGISTRATION •••••
DEADLINE
••••• DECEMBER 18, 2015 •••••

Easy online registration!
Use this code when registering: CGADec15

CGA Safety Materials Now Available for Ordering



CGA Best Practices 12.0, 2014 DIRT and 811 Safety Education Videos

To get your copy of the Best Practices 12.0 or DIRT [click here](#) and look for the appropriate buttons to order.



To order any of our videos please [click here](#).

3rd ANNUAL

Call Before You Divot Classic



**March
10th
2016**

Canyon Gate Country Club

2001 Canyon Gate Dr. Las Vegas, NV 89117

For more information call:
866-279-7755

Presented by:
KORTERRA

Costs

\$150 (single) \$600 (foursome)
Mulligans available for purchase

Format

Four-man scramble/best ball

Schedule

2:00 PM shotgun start

Team Prizes

Awarded to 1st, 8th & 11th place teams

Skill Holes & Prizes

Longest drive, closest to the pin and many more

Awards Reception

Following end of play at course

Golfer 1

Golfer 2

Golfer 3

Golfer 4

Entry Form & Sponsorship Opportunities

Company Name/Individual _____

Email _____

Phone _____

Amount to be invoiced _____

Method of payment check credit card

- Single (\$150.00)
- Foursome (\$600.00)
- My company will sponsor a hole (\$200.00)
- My company will provide a gift card or gift (value \$50.00+)